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TRANSFORMERS
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ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

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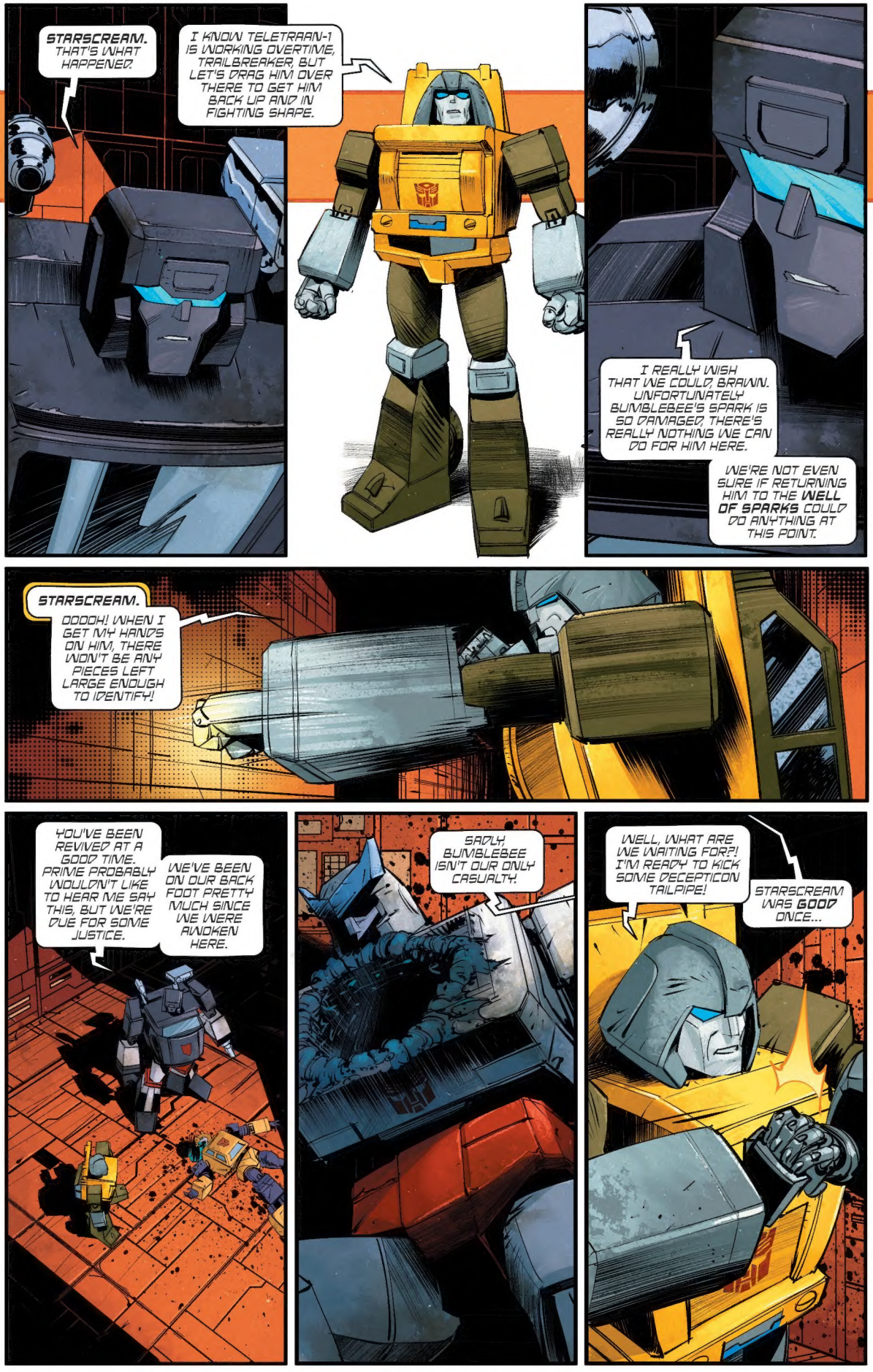
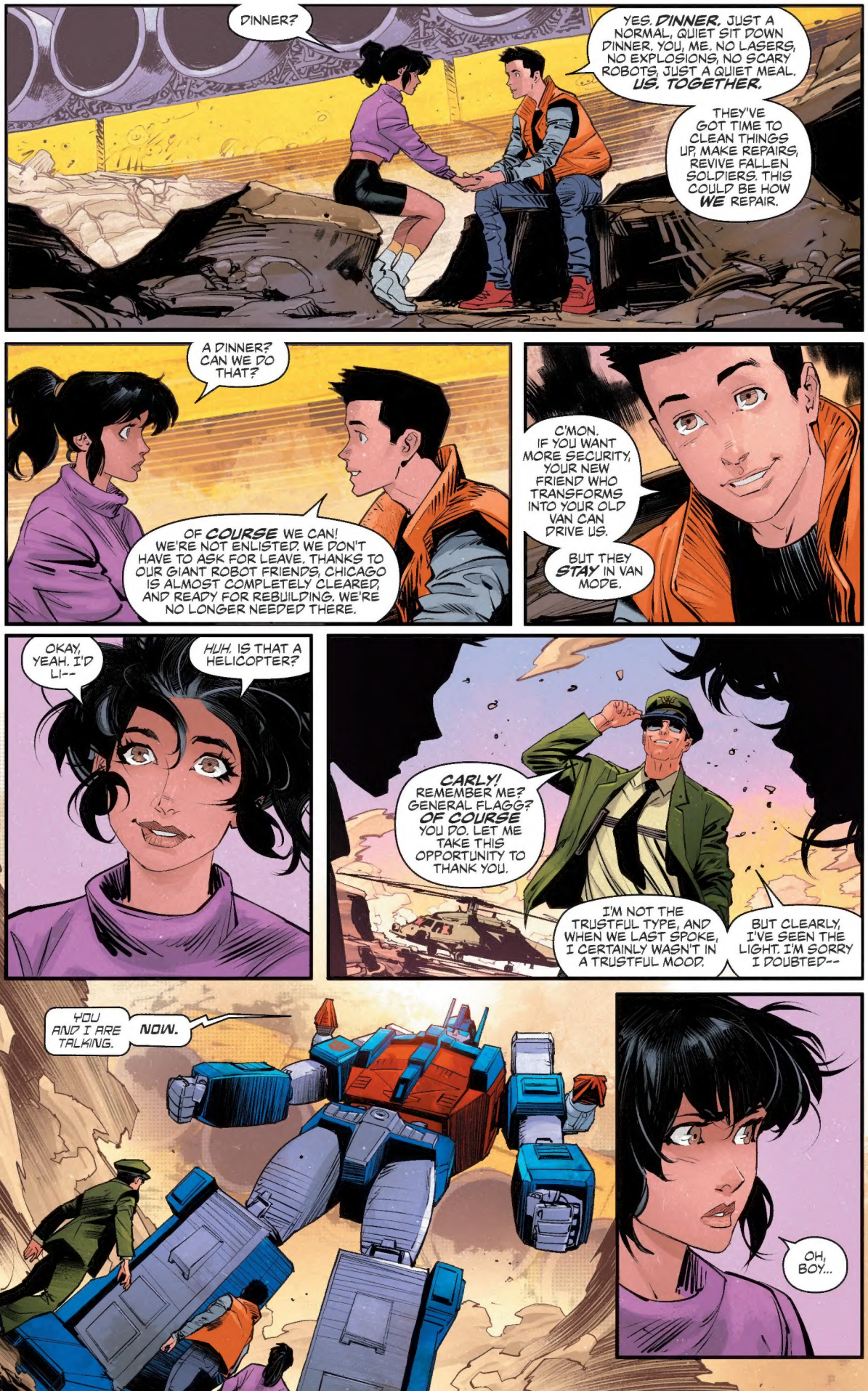
OH, MAN. WHAT HAPPENED TO BEE?


STARSCREAM. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
I KNOW TELETRAAN-1 IS WORKING OVERTIME, TRAILBREAKER, BUT LET'S DRAG HIM OVER THERE TO GET HIM BACK UP AND IN FIGHTING SHAPE.
I REALLY WISH THAT WE COULD, BRAWN. UNFORTUNATELY BUMBLEBEE'S SPARK IS SO DAMAGED, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM HERE.
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE IF RETURNING HIM TO THE WELL OF SPARKS COULD DO ANYTHING AT THIS POINT.
STARSCREAM.
OOOOH! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM, THERE WON'T BE ANY PIECES LEFT LARGE ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY!
YOU'VE BEEN REVIVED AT A GOOD TIME. PRIME PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE TO HEAR ME SAY THIS, BUT WE'RE DUE FOR SOME JUSTICE.
WE'VE BEEN ON OUR BACK FOOT PRETTY MUCH SINCE WE WERE AWOKEN HERE.
SADLY, BUMBLEBEE ISN'T OUR ONLY CASUALTY.
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?! I'M READY TO KICK SOME DECEPTICON TAILPIPE!
STARSCREAM WAS GOOD ONCE...

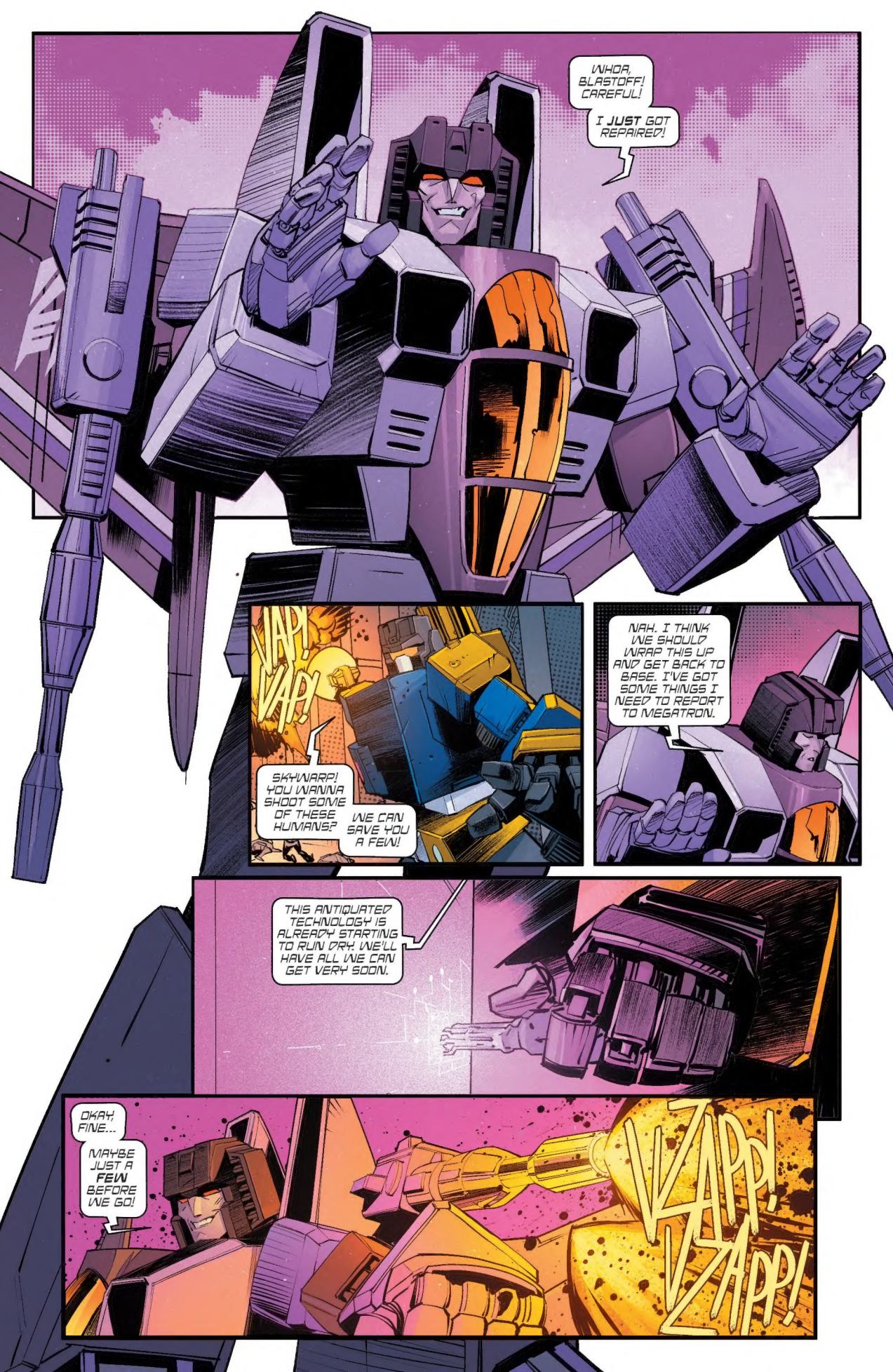
I FEAR THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THE BOT I ONCE KNEW.
JETFIRE!
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND! YOU WEREN'T ON THE ARK MISSION. WHEN DID YOU COME BACK? I FEEL SO OUT OF THE LOOP!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I WAS MORE OR LESS JUST REVIVED MYSELF.
I WAS ALMOST KILLED BY STARSCREAM AND THE DECEPTICONS. MY SPARK WAS NEARLY EXTINGUISHED.
I WAS KEPT ALIVE IN A HORRIFIC STATE OF LIMBO, TRAPPED IN MY ALT MODE, BARELY CONSCIOUS, UNABLE TO SEE. NOT DEATH... BUT A SENSATION I WOULD EQUATE WITH DEATH.
JEEZ, BETWEEN YOU, BEE, AND RATCHET-- HOW MUCH OF THIS KIND OF THING HAS BEEN HAPPENING?!
SO MUCH...
SO MUCH.
WHOA!
WHY SO GLUM BACK HERE?!

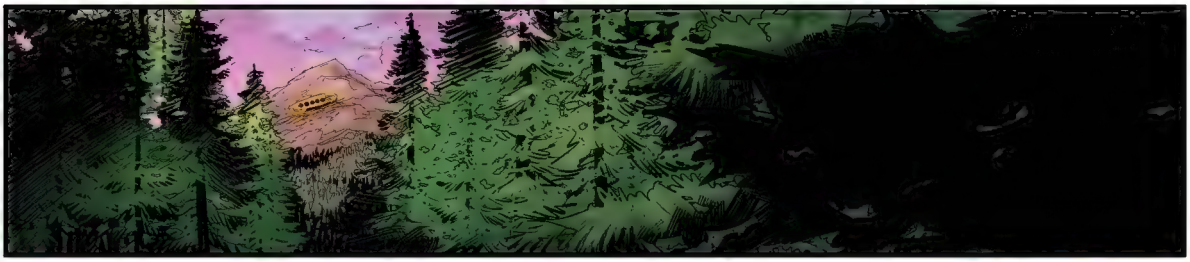
BULKHEAD'S HERE! I JUST JOINED THE PARTY! I THINK THAT'S CAUSE FOR A LITTLE CELEBRATING, RIGHT?
RIGHT?
...
NO?
SO THAT'S A NO. OKAY.
THEY'RE REVIVING MIRAGE RIGHT NOW IF YOU WANT TO GO CHECK IT OUT.
OH, MAN. IS THIS WHERE WE KEEP OUR DEAD?
GUYS, I DIDN'T KNOW. GUYS?!
OKAY. I SEE HOW IT IS!


DINNER?
YES. DINNER. JUST A NORMAL, QUIET SIT DOWN DINNER. YOU, ME. NO LASERS, NO EXPLOSIONS, NO SCARY ROBOTS, JUST A QUIET MEAL. US. TOGETHER.
THEY'VE GOT TIME TO CLEAN THINGS UP, MAKE REPAIRS, REVIVE FALLEN SOLDIERS. THIS COULD BE HOW WE REPAIR.
A DINNER? CAN WE DO THAT?
OF COURSE WE CAN! WE'RE NOT ENLISTED. WE DON'T HAVE TO ASK FOR LEAVE. THANKS TO OUR GIANT ROBOT FRIENDS, CHICAGO IS ALMOST COMPLETELY CLEARED, AND READY FOR REBUILDING. WE'RE NO LONGER NEEDED THERE.
C'MON. IF YOU WANT MORE SECURITY, YOUR NEW FRIEND WHO TRANSFORMS INTO YOUR OLD VAN CAN DRIVE US.
BUT THEY STAY IN VAN MODE.
OKAY, YEAH. I'D LI--
HUH. IS THAT A HELICOPTER?
CARLY! REMEMBER ME? GENERAL FLAGG? OF COURSE YOU DO. LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU.
I'M NOT THE TRUSTFUL TYPE, AND WHEN WE LAST SPOKE, I CERTAINLY WASN'T IN A TRUSTFUL MOOD.
BUT CLEARLY, I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT. I'M SORRY I DOUBTED--
YOU AND I ARE TALKING. NOW.
OH, BOY...

YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE HELPING US A GREAT DEAL, AND I APPRECIATE THAT. IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT APPRECIATION THAT I'VE DECIDED NOT TO TELL PRIME WHAT YOU DID.
WHAT I DID?
CARE TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT EXACTLY IT IS I DID?
YOU HELD ME AGAINST MY WILL. YOU EXPERIMENTED ON ME. YOU TORTURE--
NOPE! HOLD UP--!
I WAS MOST CERTAINLY UNKIND, AND MY TEAM DEFINITELY MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE. THAT MUCH I WILL NOT DENY.
BUT TORTURE?
YOU WERE AN ENEMY COMBATANT OF ALIEN ORIGIN. BIG GIANT ROBOTS WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU WERE INDISCRIMINATELY KILLING MY PEOPLE BY THE BUSLOAD.
I ONLY RECENTLY LEARNED TO TELL YOU APART. LITTLE RED HEAD, GOOD. LITTLE PURPLE HEAD, BAD. AND SOME OF THOSE LITTLE HEADS CAN BE HARD TO SPOT!
...
I FEEL I DESERVE A LITTLE LEEWAY FOR MY PREVIOUS ACTIONS. WILLING TO BET OPTIMUS PRIME WOULD AGREE.
SO BY ALL MEANS, TATTLE AWAY, RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE.

SOMETIMES IT'S NICE TO JUST CUT LOOSE AND CAUSE SOME MAYHEM.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, ONSLAUGHT!
HURRY UP, SWINDLE. WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE AUTOBOTS SHOW UP.
VZAPP!
KAPP!
ZAPP!
I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN.
THIS ENERGY IS SO DILUTED, THESE SYNTHETIC ENERGON CUBES AREN'T GOING TO SUSTAIN US FOR MORE THAN A DAY!
THEY'RE CRAP!
THIS ISN'T WORTH OUR--
DIE, AUTO--


WHOA, BLASTOFF! CAREFUL!
I JUST GOT REPAIRED!
VAP! VAP!
SKYWARP! YOU WANNA SHOOT SOME OF THESE HUMANS?
WE CAN SAVE YOU A FEW!
NAH. I THINK WE SHOULD WRAP THIS UP AND GET BACK TO BASE. I'VE GOT SOME THINGS I NEED TO REPORT TO MEGATRON.
THIS ANTIQUATED TECHNOLOGY IS ALREADY STARTING TO RUN DRY. WE'LL HAVE ALL WE CAN GET VERY SOON.
OKAY, FINE...
MAYBE JUST A FEW BEFORE WE GO!
ZAPP! ZAPP!



I JUST COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING SINCE WE GOT HERE... THAT... I JUST DIDN'T **BELONG.**

MY BELIEF IN THE DECEPTICON CAUSE NEVER WAVERED, BUT I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR SUCH... **CRUELTY.**

VIOLENCE CAN BE A MEANS TO AN END, BUT IT FEELS WRONG TO TAKE SUCH... GLEE IN IT.

AUTOBOTS AND DECEPTICONS, WE HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES TO BE SURE. OUR WAR ON CYBERTRON WAS BRUTAL AND UNENDING. NOW THAT IT HAS SPREAD TO THIS PLANET... THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

THE BRUTALITY WE EMPLOY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER IS WARRANTED AT TIMES, YES. IT IS ANOTHER MATTER WHEN INNOCENT LIVES WHO ARE COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED IN OUR CONFLICT ARE PUT AT RISK.

I AM HEARTENED THAT YOU SHARE MY DISTASTE FOR THIS. I CAN ONLY HOPE OTHER DECEPTICONS SHARE YOUR OPINION.

I WOULD NOT HOLD OUT HOPE. I FEAR THEY'RE ALL CLOUDED BY THEIR LOYALTY TO MEGATRON... LIKE SKYWARP.

THEY DON'T SEE THE VALUE OF THE LIFEFORMS HERE. THEY ARE WORSE OFF FOR IT.

THIS PLANET HAS A KIND OF... MAJESTY.

YES. IT **DOES.**

THERE ARE THOSE AMONG MY AUTOBOTS WHO SEE MY ACTIONS ON THIS WORLD AS FOLLY.

EVEN THEY, THOUGH GOOD OF HEART, SEE THIS WORLD AS **BENEATH** US. **UNWORTHY** OF OUR NOTICE.

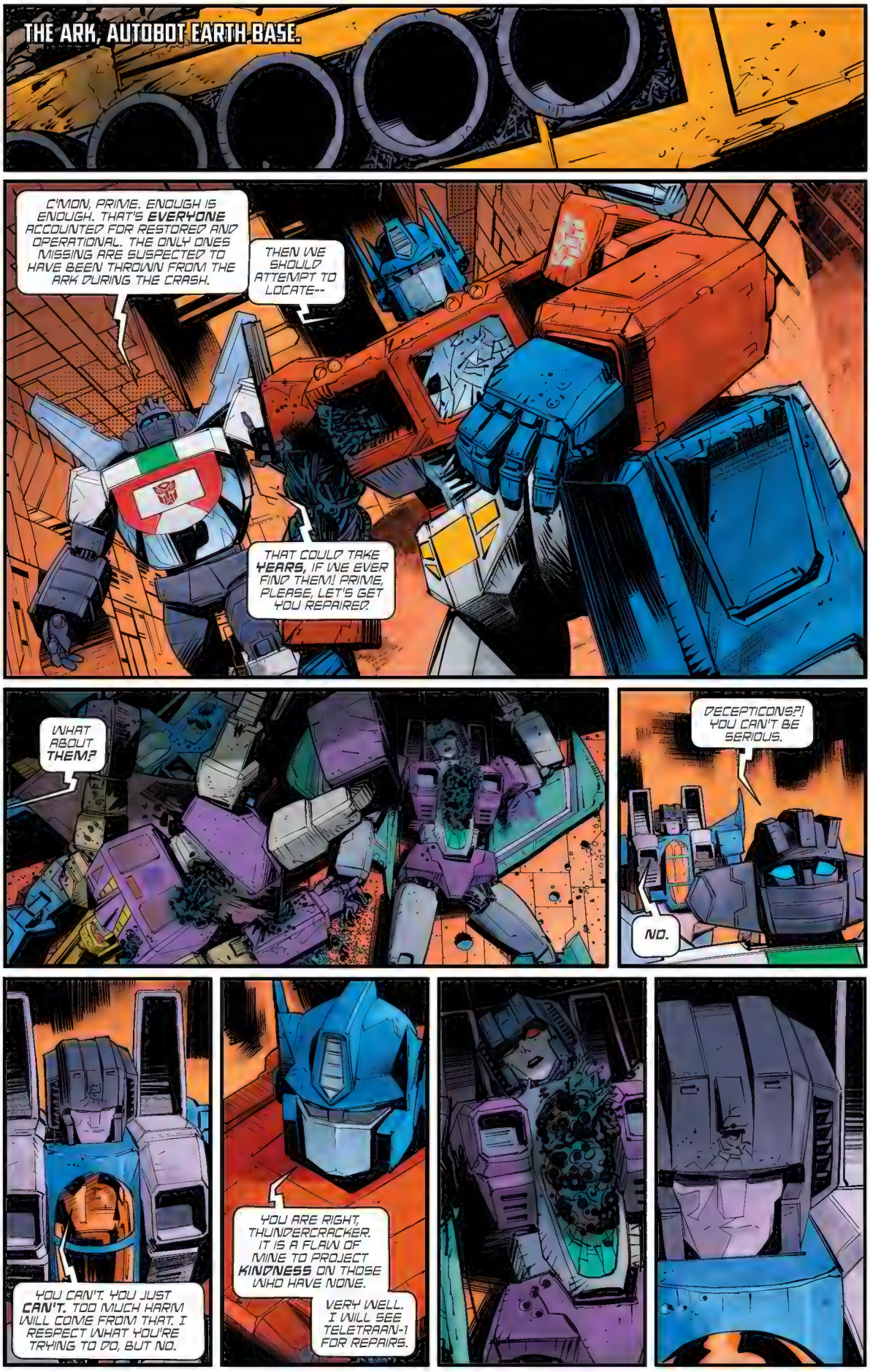
IS IT OKAY TO ADMIT THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT AGREES WITH THEM? IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SKYWARP AND A HUNDRED OF THESE CREATURES, I WOULD CHOOSE SKYWARP.

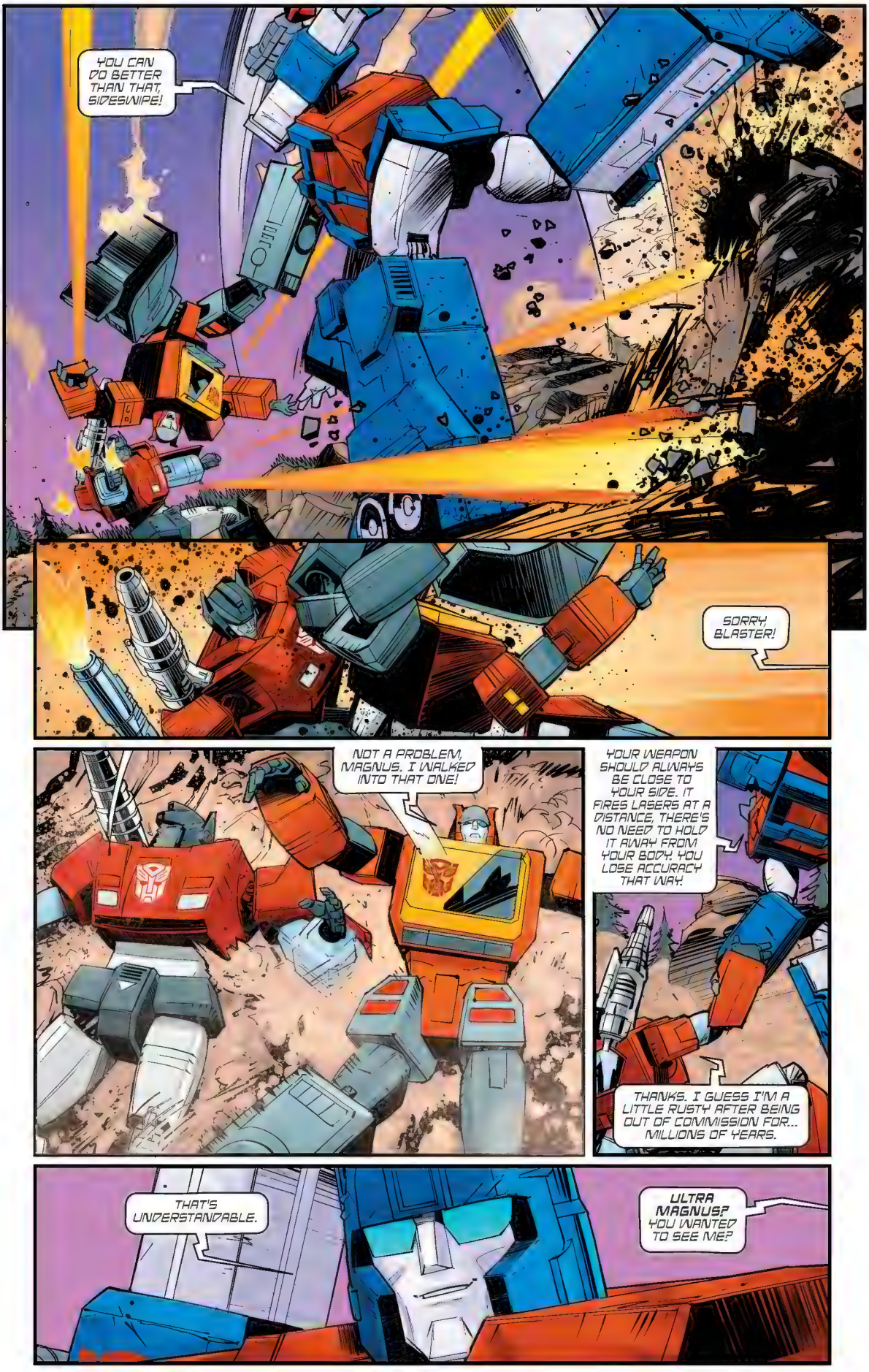
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I **WANT** THEM TO DIE.

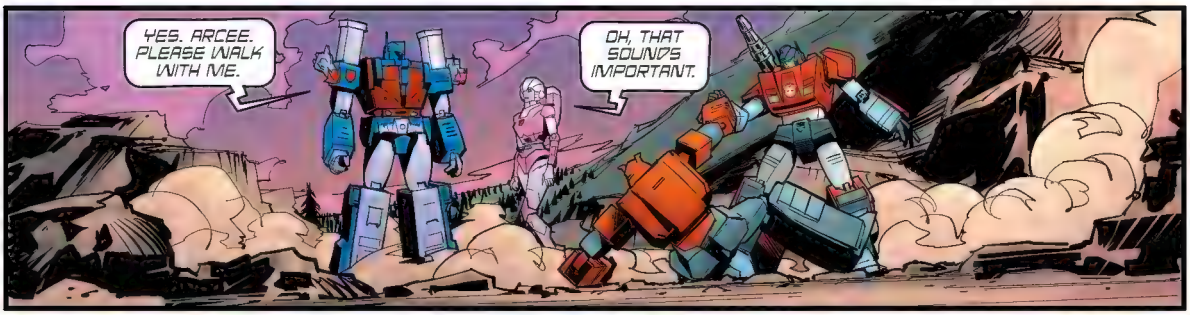
...
YOU NEED NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE DEVOTION YOU HAVE FOR YOUR BRETHREN. I AM SORRY FOR YOU THAT THEY DON'T APPEAR TO SHARE IT.
WE ARE **ALLIES** NOW. I CAN ASSURE YOU, IF YOU COME TO BE AS DEVOTED TO US, IT WILL BE RETURNED IN KIND.
STICK WITH US, THUNDERCRACKER.
WE'LL MAKE AN AUTOBOT OUT OF YOU YET.
I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY **HAVE.**

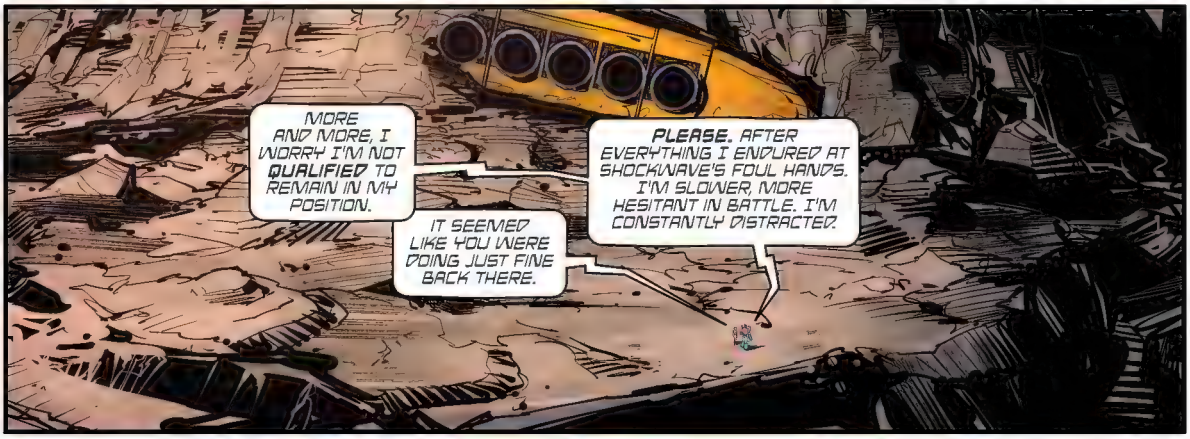
SHADOW WATCH UNDERGROUND BASE.
WELL, MILES? I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE HAD ALL THE TIME IN THE DAMN WORLD. YOU GET ALL YOU NEED FROM THE SPACE ROBOTS TO FINALLY COMPLETE YOUR LITTLE PROJECT?
DID I... WHAT? FOR WHAT?
AND MY... "LITTLE PROJECT"?
I AM MILES MCKANE MAYHEM, THE MOST BRILLIANT MIND ON THIS EARTH! YOU THINK I NEED ANYTHING TO COMPLETE MY WORK!
MY "LITTLE PROJECT" AS YOU PUT IT, IS PRACTICALLY DONE! I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM THESE ALIENS! I'M NOT REVERSE ENGINEERING THEIR TECH. IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK I'M DOING?!
I'M MERELY CHECKING MY TECH AGAINST THE ONLY THING WE'VE DISCOVERED THAT COMES CLOSE TO HOW ADVANCED IT IS.
I'M ON MY OWN PATH!
WELL, I SEEM TO RECALL MATT TRAKKER, DESPITE WHAT HE DID, BEING ON THAT PATH WITH YOU FOR THE MAJORITY OF THIS PROJECT.
DON'T SAY THAT NAME!
OR WHAT? IS THIS A THREAT?
IS DIRECTOR MAYHEM THREATENING A SUPERIOR OFFICER?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS CHARADE, FLAGG.

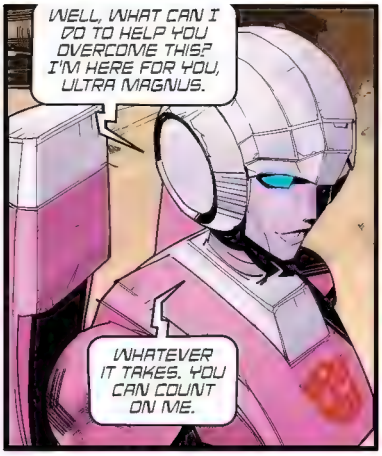
I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!
WRAMM!
YOU FEEL THAT? MANDIBULAR NERVE. ARMS GO NUMB. AIN'T WORTH A CRAP. NOTHING YOU CAN DO BUT LISTEN. SO JUST FOCUS ON THAT. THAT AND THE PAIN.
YOU OUT OF YOUR EVER-LOVING MIND? YOU THINK I FISHED MY RANK OUT OF THE BOTTOM OF A CEREAL BOX? I'M CHISELED STEEL, SON.
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DECEIVING UNCLE SAM ABOUT HOW FAR ALONG YOU ARE. PRACTICALLY DONE? I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN A WORKING PROTOTYPE. WHERE ARE YOU HIDING THIS STUFF?
DON'T MATTER. WE KNOW NOOKS AND CRANNIES IN NOOKS AND CRANNIES THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HAD NOOKS OR CRANNIES. WE'LL FIND IT.
WE DON'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO TRAITORS HERE IN THE U. S. OF A. NO, SIR. THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND SOME TIME IN A BLACK SITE. POSSIBLY THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
YOUR FREEDOM PRIVILEGES ARE REVOKED.
WHUMP
ARREST THIS PIECE OF TRASH.


THE ARK, AUTOBOT EARTH BASE.
C'MON, PRIME. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. THAT'S EVERYONE ACCOUNTED FOR RESTORED AND OPERATIONAL. THE ONLY ONES MISSING ARE SUSPECTED TO HAVE BEEN THROWN FROM THE ARK DURING THE CRASH.
THEN WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE--
THAT COULD TAKE YEARS, IF WE EVER FIND THEM! PRIME, PLEASE, LET'S GET YOU REPAIRED.
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
DECEPTICONS?! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
NO.
YOU CAN'T. YOU JUST CAN'T. TOO MUCH HARM WILL COME FROM THAT. I RESPECT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, BUT NO.
YOU ARE RIGHT, THUNDERCRACKER. IT IS A FLAW OF MINE TO PROJECT KINDNESS ON THOSE WHO HAVE NONE.
VERY WELL. I WILL SEE TELETRAAN-1 FOR REPAIRS.

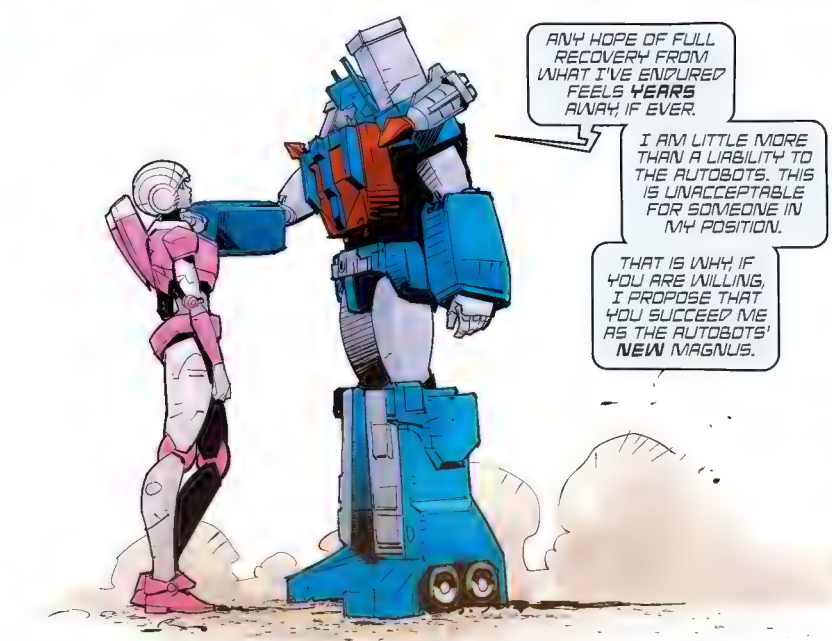

YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT, SIDESWIPE!
SORRY, BLASTER!
NOT A PROBLEM, MAGNUS. I WALKED INTO THAT ONE!
YOUR WEAPON SHOULD ALWAYS BE CLOSE TO YOUR SIDE. IT FIRES LASERS AT A DISTANCE, THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD IT AWAY FROM YOUR BODY. YOU LOSE ACCURACY THAT WAY.
THANKS. I GUESS I'M A LITTLE RUSTY AFTER BEING OUT OF COMMISSION FOR... MILLIONS OF YEARS.
THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
ULTRA MAGNUS? YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

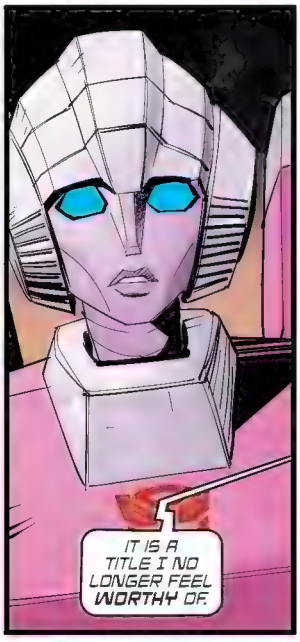

YES. ARCEE. PLEASE WALK WITH ME.
OH, THAT SOUNDS IMPORTANT.


MORE AND MORE, I WORRY I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO REMAIN IN MY POSITION.
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE DOING JUST FINE BACK THERE.
PLEASE. AFTER EVERYTHING I ENDURED AT SHOCKWAVE'S FOUL HANDS, I'M SLOWER, MORE HESITANT IN BATTLE. I'M CONSTANTLY DISTRACTED.

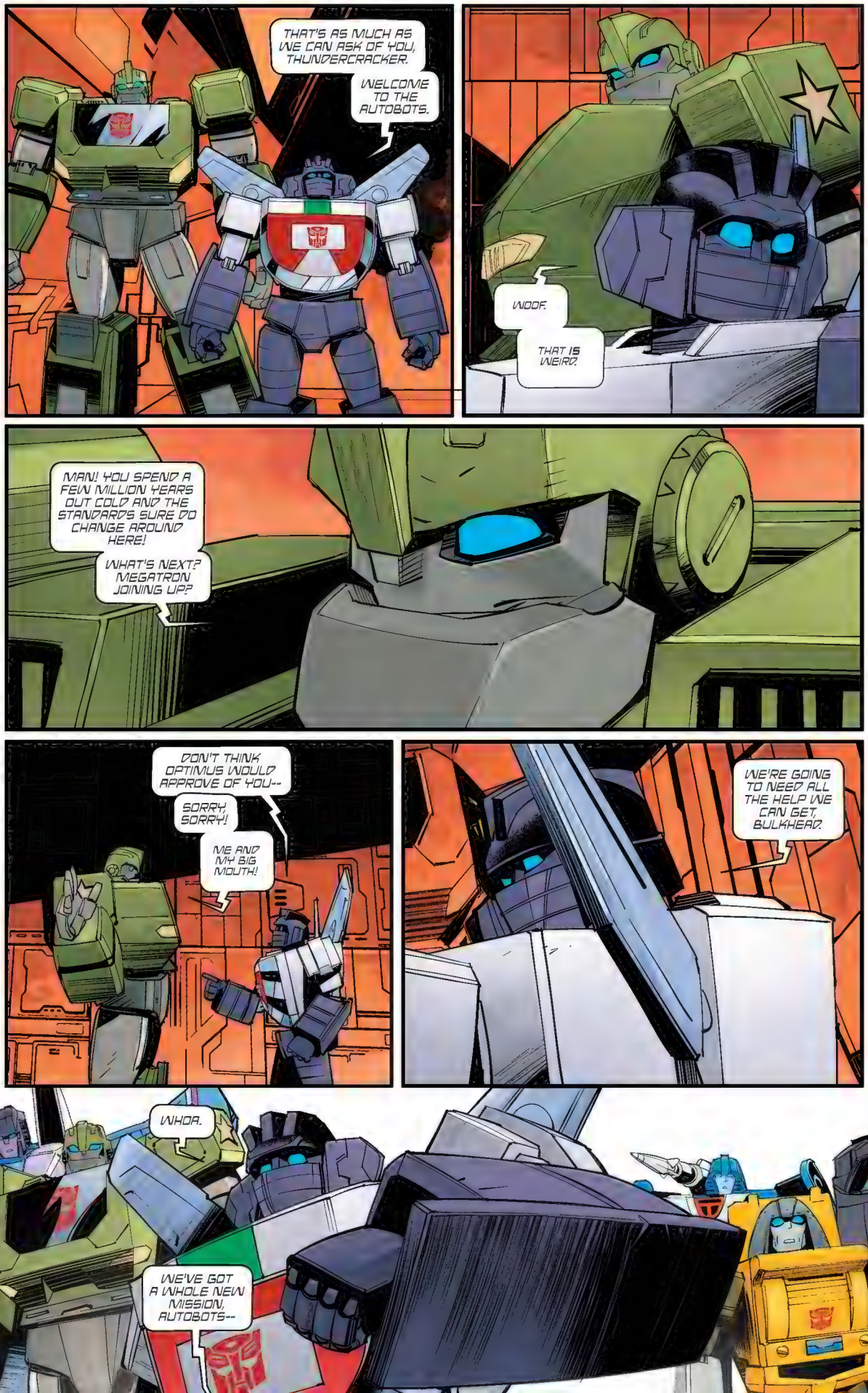

WELL, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU OVERCOME THIS? I'M HERE FOR YOU, ULTRA MAGNUS.
WHATEVER IT TAKES. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

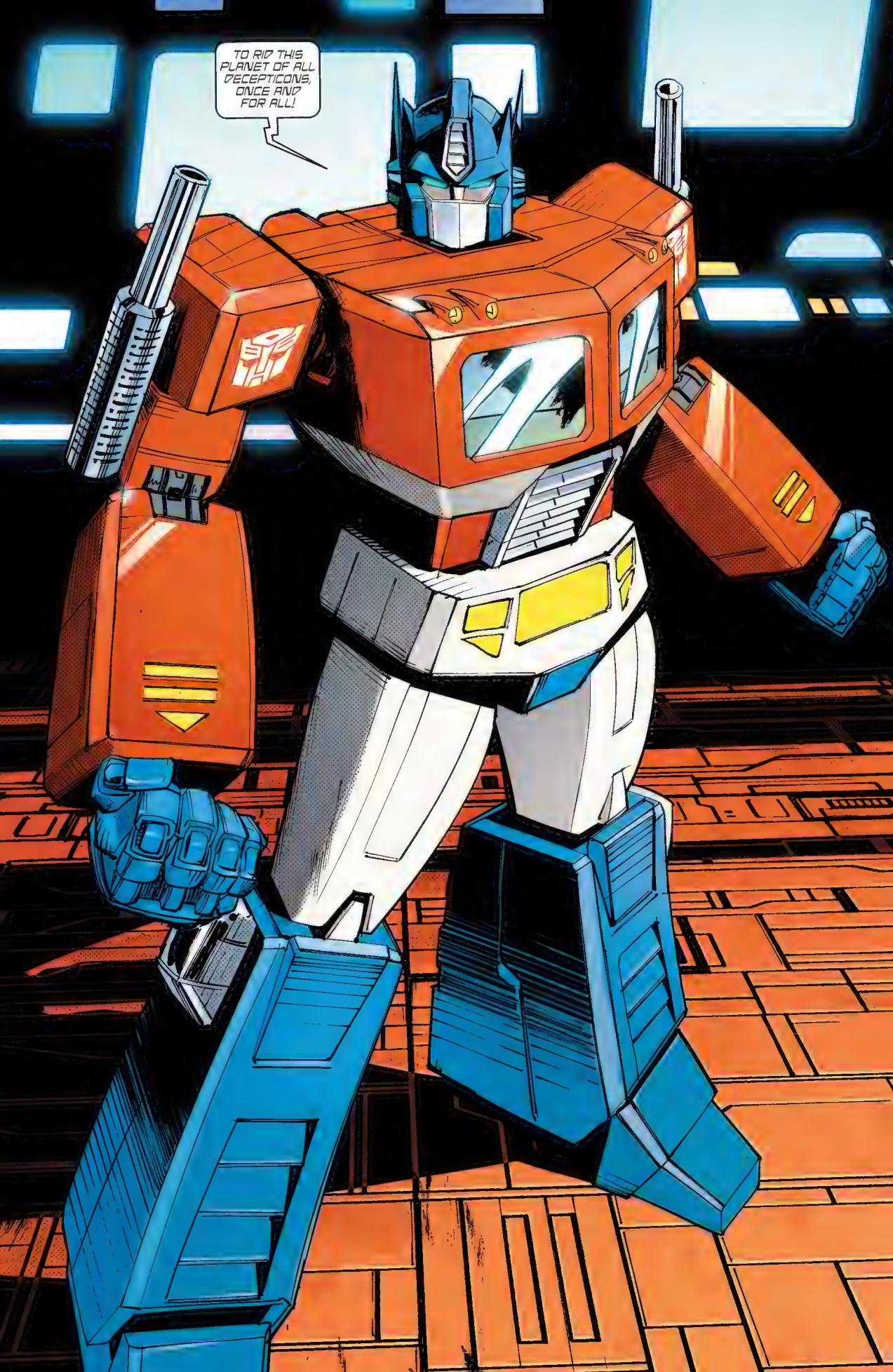
I KNOW THAT, AND I THANK YOU FOR IT.
...
THIS IS PAINFUL FOR ME, BUT I FEAR I'M TOO FAR GONE FOR THAT.

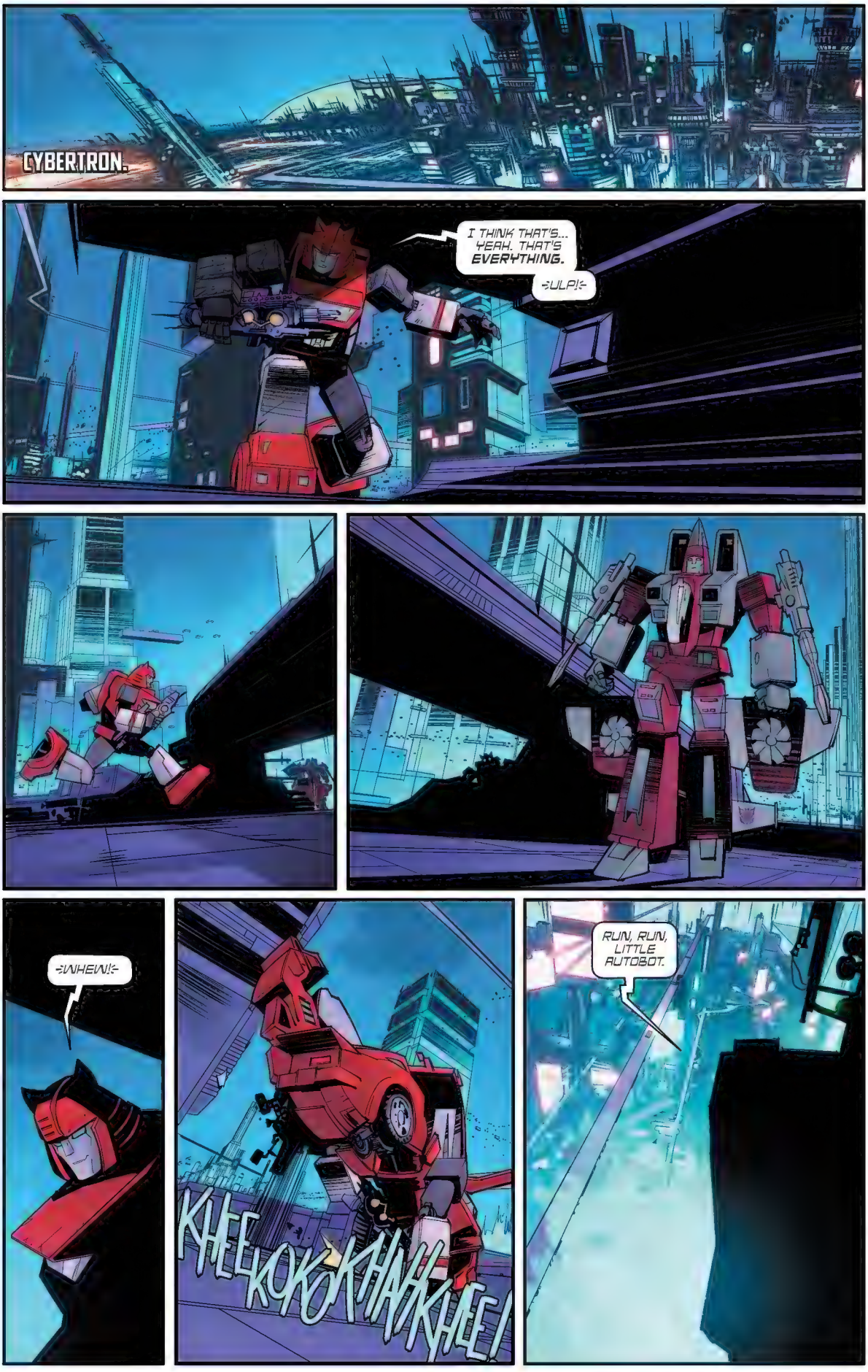

ANY HOPE OF FULL RECOVERY FROM WHAT I'VE ENDURED FEELS YEARS AWAY, IF EVER.
I AM LITTLE MORE THAN A LIABILITY TO THE AUTOBOTS. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR SOMEONE IN MY POSITION.
THAT IS WHY, IF YOU ARE WILLING, I PROPOSE THAT YOU SUCCEED ME AS THE AUTOBOTS' NEW MAGNUS.


IT IS A TITLE I NO LONGER FEEL WORTHY OF.

NES
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.
OR EVER.
CERTAINLY NOT ANY TIME I CAN RECALL.
FEELS **STRANGE** TO ME, TOO. TRUST ME.
AT THE SAME TIME, FEELS LIKE THE NEW BEGINNING I NEED.
I PROMISE I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO **EARN THEM.**


THAT'S AS MUCH AS WE CAN ASK OF YOU, THUNDERCRACKER.
WELCOME TO THE AUTOBOTS.
WOOF.
THAT IS WEIRD.
MAN! YOU SPEND A FEW MILLION YEARS OUT COLD AND THE STANDARDS SURE DO CHANGE AROUND HERE!
WHAT'S NEXT? MEGATRON JOINING UP?
DON'T THINK OPTIMUS WOULD APPROVE OF YOU--
SORRY, SORRY!
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!
WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, BULKHEAD.
WHOA.
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW MISSION, AUTOBOTS--


TO RID THIS PLANET OF ALL DECEPTICONS, ONCE AND FOR ALL!


CYBERTRON.
I THINK THAT'S... YEAH. THAT'S EVERYTHING.
=ULP!=
=WHEW!=
KHEE KOKOKHAH KHEE!
RUN, RUN, LITTLE AUTOBOT.

I'LL PEEL THE STEEL FROM YOUR FRAME SOON ENOUGH.
SO SWEARS...
SHOCKWAVE.

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

SHOCKWAVE LIVES?! Holy $#%&, that's not good... welcome back to the Matrix of Lettership and boy am I excited as joining me to answer some letters is the Prime himself, Robert Kirkman!

Hey everyone!!! It's my first letters column for TRANSFORMERS! How cool is that?! Are you excited?! I'm excited!!! So much cool stuff in this issue! Was that Brawn, Blaster and Sideswipe all added in one issue?! Is Jetfire back?! What?!! What a fun issue! So much happening. Woo!

All right, let's dig into some of these letters!

Okay...sorry, Ben. I'll calm down. Let's read some letters!

Hi Robert.

Issue 25 (aka your first issue) was definitely an intriguing start to your run. I definitely like how you split your story in two. The first half focusing on the Decepticons in the opening pages done by Jorge Corona were neat. The other half focusing on the Autobots done by Dan Mora were really exceptional. The cameos of Mirage and Bulkhead were really surprising, specifically Bulkhead. I did not think he would show up. Thundercracker seems to have go through hell with the Ark and went insane.

Do you have any plans to have a guest artist show up by the end of this first arc? Because you did say in your interview with Comic Tropes that they are a lot of artists you would love to work with.

Or to have a second Transformers book? I think if there was another book on shelves, some of the plot points explored (specifically the stuff happening on Cybertron) deserve to have a whole book on its own.

I really hope your Transformers run does well! 'Til all are one!

Muhammad

Thank you for writing in, Muhammad, we appreciate your support. I will spoil any hopes of a second TRANSFORMERS book as we won't be debuting a second title. Sorry! (Not sorry.)

I hear you on wanting more TRANSFORMERS! But we do feel like keeping things contained in one title makes that title more special and keeps things special. That said, we will from time to time have an expanded issue like issue 25 and hey, there may be a chance we ship faster than monthly at some point like G.I. JOE is doing RIGHT NOW for the amazing DREADNOK WAR storyline! Make sure you check that out. Joshua Williamson and Tom Reilly are absolutely blowing doors off with that arc. That book is great!

As for other artists, Dan Mora is going to finish out this arc but I'm very excited about who I'm going to be working with next! Stay tuned!

I have to admit, I was nervous about issue 25 with a new creative team after DWJ, Jorge Corona and Mike Spicer set up this epic adventure and conclusion. BUT after reading issue 25 I am so blown away. Setting up a new connection to my childhood through M.A.S.K. and a glimpse of Golobulus has me staying on the hook. Keep reeling me in for the amazing storytelling from Robert Kirkman now! Transform and Roll Out! KheeKoKoKhaKee!

– B.Done

Glad we kept you hooked, as #25 was EPIC, but it was only the tip of the iceberg! So much more awesome to come...

Indeed! Thanks for writing in B. Done! We're having so much fun on this book, we may never B. Done!!

Hello Transformers team,

When I sat down to read this issue I had no idea how exciting it would be. I loved how many different things it set up for the future, mainly the Dinobots. But for the most part everything was incredibly exciting to read. Megs hyping up the Deceptions has made me very excited to see just how powerful they can be.

It also seems the convergence of the Energon Universe titles is truly starting to begin with Thundercracker encountering Cobra-La, and G.I. Joe already having interacted with the Transformers. I'm also interested to see how Cliffjumper will handle his current situation with Elita on Cybertron. Will he attempt to leave Cybertron, or stick with Elita? That is the question I'm most excited to see answered.

I also loved the G1 cartoon transition halfway through. I know this was an oversized issue but, if that could stay in I would be incredibly happy. The inclusion of Bulkhead and Mirage was unexpected but definitely a fun inclusion as Bulkhead has always been one of my favorites. In summary I'm very intrigued by all the set up for the future so thank you for continuing to entertain me, Robert Kirkman.

Transformers enthusiast,
Kolton

Thank you for writing in, Kolton, and the events unfolding on Cybertron are one of my favorite subplots!

That page turn transition moment really became my favorite thing in the whole issue. I totally hear the sound when I look at those pages and it was so awesome to see people online say they could hear it too!

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I fell into the world of Transformers after watching TF One around this time last year, and before I knew it, I was making custom figures

and making plans to go to TF Con Chicago this October. I read all of the Skybound issues in one night in March and was instantly blown away. I absolutely love #25! Thank you for beginning to branch out from the original G1 cartoon cast, I was VERY surprised to see Bulkhead in his Legacy toy style! My biggest hope for your run would be to see the return of my favorite character of all time, Pharma, return to the franchise (I made a custom of him, since no toys exist...). I can only imagine what creative things the team at Skybound would be able to do with him. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Melinda Liu

Wow, you read all of the issues printed in one night? A Herculean feat and I'm glad we didn't disappoint! And I can't wait for you to see what comes next...

No plans for Pharma just yet but he is cool!

Hello! It's Cass again--the very same who wrote to this comic back when Jazz was first introduced. Absolutely did not expect my letter to ever appear in an issue so imagine my surprise when I flicked to the end of #6 and saw my inane rambling smack-dab in the center! Wow!

Just wanted to say I'm so incredibly excited for this next era of the comic. Will miss DWJ's run dearly but as a fellow (hobbyist!) creative I admire the choice to let the leading reigns be handed over. And what an addition to the team you two are!!! I can't believe the names on #25, and what do you know, it's just as fantastic as always. Of course, Jazz actually living up to his role of OP's right hand--and with a spoilt amount of lines!!!--is an easy way to my heart. Looking forward to what you'll pay off within your run especially :)

I bet there's going to be a loooot of inter-party conflict on both sides, and I cannot _ wait_ to eat it up. Poor, misguided, reasonable Elita-1 is such a highlight for me as always. What new tough decisions will Optimus have to make? Is Wheeljack ready for fatherhood with that evil little Dinobot tease? And when will poor, poor Thundercracker get a break...we shall find out!!

To Dan Mora--your art is simply incredible. So clean and expressive. I'm especially a huge fan of your Ultra Magnus panels; you've captured his stern, soft nature with what feels like ease. I'm curious, what's your history with mecha in general? It's so complex but incredibly rewarding to draw, and I get that same vibe from these spreads alone. Incredible stuff.

I'm sure this is long enough by now but just want to say that I'm loving this series and with every tease my media-analysis brain runs a hundred miles per hour. Go hard, Kirkman! Show us what you can do with our beloved, tragic bots!!

Keep it tight!
Cass

Nice to have a fresh letter from you, Cass, and I hope you have an equal shock seeing it printed! I asked Dan for a response to your question and he writes:

Hey, thanks so much! I have been a fan of mechas all my life, Gundam, Evangelion, etc., but all my experience comes from drawing the Zords with the Power Rangers; but the Transformers are completely different and I'm learning how to draw them as I go, so it means a lot that you like it, especially Ultra Magnus. I think he is one of the harder to draw of all the Autobots!

Thanks for writing in, Cass! Glad you enjoyed our first issue and I hope you enjoyed our third just as much! Wait...what did you mean by Dinobot tease?! Did I miss something?

Hello Mr. Dan Mora and Mr. Robert Kirkman and to the rest of the Energon Universe Team, I just want to say, I am AMAZED, with the art style of this issue, and also the way you continued the storyline. This storyline overall has really inspired me to go back to my hobby in Fiction Writing.

Each lore of the storyline, has got me thinking, what's gonna happen next? And now the fact that Elita now considers Optimus as her enemy is INSANE. So, I'm looking forward to where the story ends up in the next upcoming issues of this story.

Being a Transformers fan for about a year, has shaped me into becoming the best version of myself, and it has really helped me in my journey in college. And as a Future Educator, I hope to teach students not only the values of Transformers but also teach them into becoming great writers. Thank you again for giving us this amazing story and thank you for inspiring me to becoming the best version of myself.

Best regards,
Philip Alexander Moreno

We really appreciate the heartfelt letter, Philip, and we're always so honored to hear how our series inspires people...and I can already predict you're going to be an awesome teacher!

Yes, indeed! Thank you! What a great letter. We've got a lot of big plans for Elita-One and I can't wait for everyone to see what we have in store for her. I'm super excited and I think people are really going to like it. So keep reading!!

And that's a wrap, folks! Thank you for all the letters (please keep them coming!) and have a safe, happy holidays...see you back next month!

-Ben

Heh...next issue is a BIG ONE. Can't wait!!!!! See you all back here very soon!!!!

-Robert

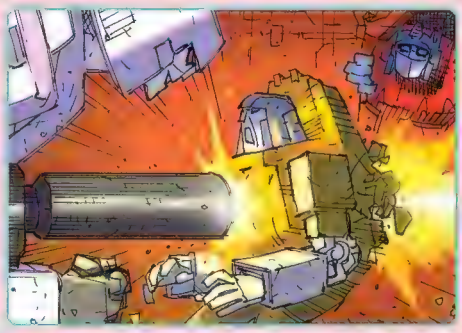
The world lost an entertainment giant recently with Ron Friedman's passing. His work touched millions of people over the years and his work on G.I. JOE: A REAL AMERICAN HERO and TRANSFORMERS were an inspiration to us all. 'Til All Are One, may he rest in peace.

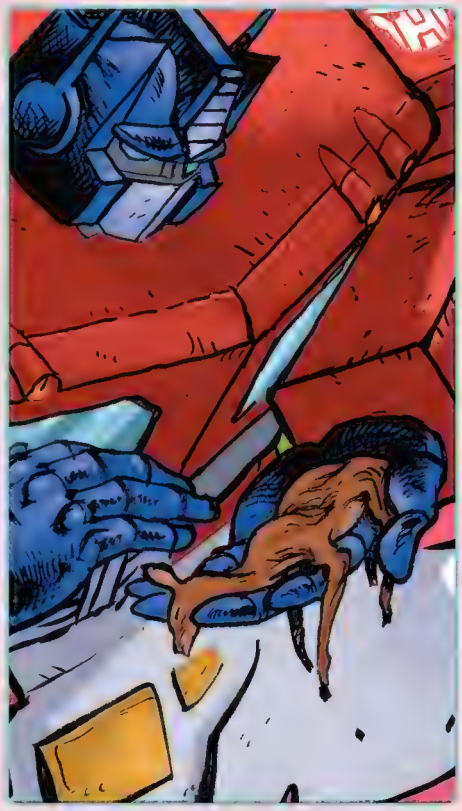
ENERGON EXPERIENCE

For the first two years of the Energon Universe, the Autobots were constantly back pedaling and exposed due to their lack of resources but their fortunes have changed. With the return of the ark and the support of General Flagg, Optimus Prime is finally reactivating many familiar faces and rebuilding a strike force that that could decisively end the war with Megatron!

Brawn!

-Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor





CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Brawn

WHERE: A loyal Autobot warrior, what Brawn lacks in size, he makes up for in strength!

WHAT: After suffering a near-fatal blast from Megatron, Brawn has been repaired and is ready to jump back into the war with the Decepticons. A master of demolitions and combat, warriors like Brawn are much needed in the next phase of the war!

OH, DEER!

These gentle dwellers of the forest have played a small but pivotal role in the series dating all the way back to TRANSFORMERS #2. Happily, the deer we see in this issue didn't become a casualty of war under the boot of robotic tyranny!

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: All right, Robert Kirkman, it's YOUR turn in the hot seat...if you had an alt mode what would it be?

A: If I got to pick my alt mode, it would be a jet or a spaceship. I'd love to be able to fly or actually go out to space and explore the cosmos. If it was something that said something about me as a person...it would be a keyboard or a couch as those are the two items I interact with the most... aside from maybe my bed? Y'know...I'd be a bed, the saddest Transformer ever, Goodnightatron? Bedimus Minor? Mattress Maximus? Are my answers for these too long? You guys are editing this down, aren't you? What...you can't just make the box bigger?! Make the box bigger, you cowards!!!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ VOID RIVALS #25 AVAILABLE 12/24
- ☐ G.I. JOE #15 AVAILABLE 12/3
- ☐ G.I. JOE #16 AVAILABLE 12/17
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #27 AVAILABLE 12/10

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ON SALE **DECEMBER 24**

ON SALE **JANUARY 7**

ROBERT KIRKMAN AND ANDREI BRESSAN BEGIN

THE QUINTESSON WAR!

VOID RIVALS

#25

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHANGES DECEMBER 2025

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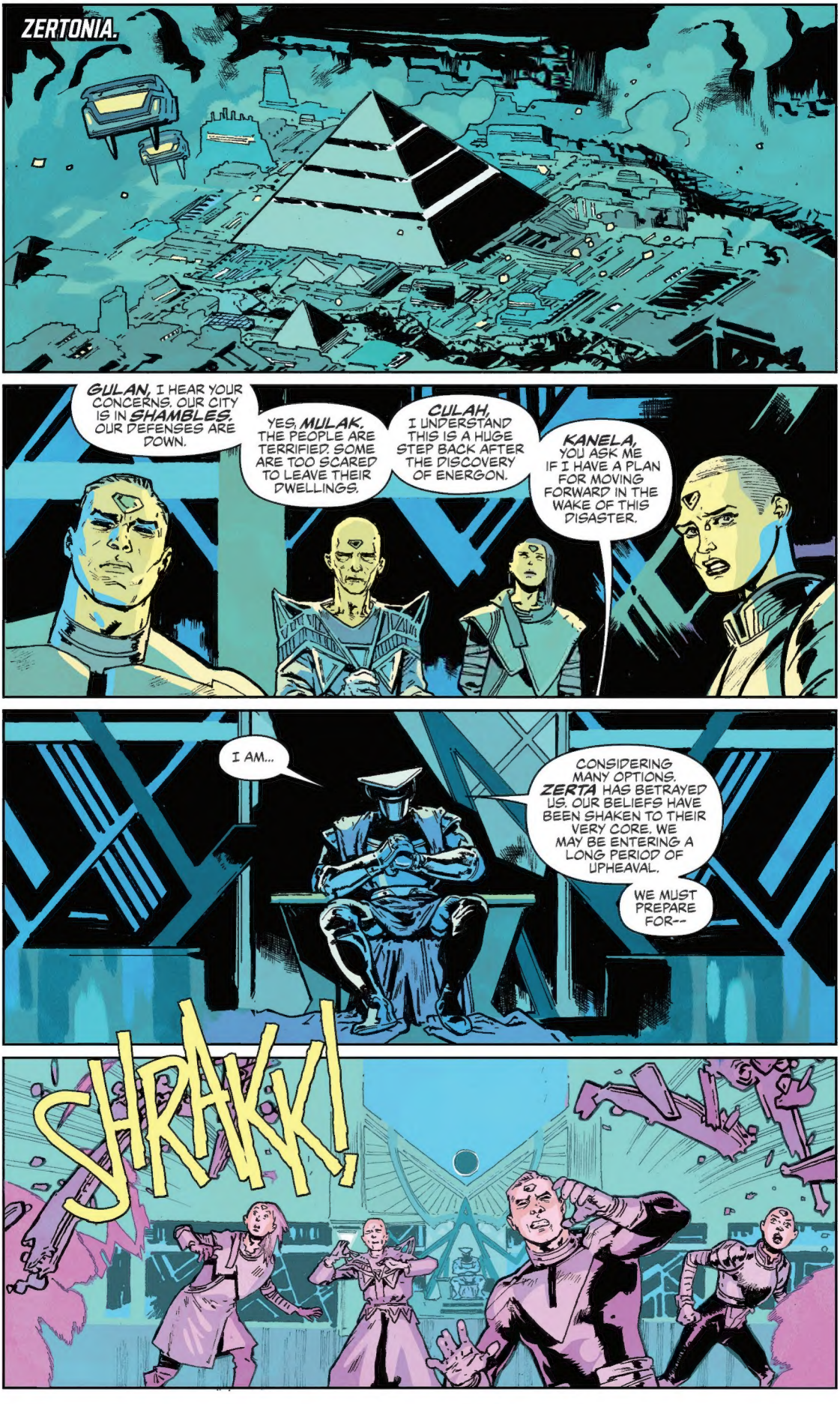

ZERTONIA.
GULAN, I HEAR YOUR CONCERNS. OUR CITY IS IN SHAMBLES. OUR DEFENSES ARE DOWN.
YES, MULAK. THE PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED. SOME ARE TOO SCARED TO LEAVE THEIR DWELLINGS.
CULAH, I UNDERSTAND THIS IS A HUGE STEP BACK AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF ENERGON.
KANELA, YOU ASK ME IF I HAVE A PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD IN THE WAKE OF THIS DISASTER.
I AM...
CONSIDERING MANY OPTIONS. ZERTA HAS BETRAYED US. OUR BELIEFS HAVE BEEN SHAKEN TO THEIR VERY CORE. WE MAY BE ENTERING A LONG PERIOD OF UPHEAVAL.
WE MUST PREPARE FOR--
SHRAKK!

DEATH TO ZALILAK!!
DEATH TO THE BETRAYER!!

THUNK!

To be Continued in **VOID RIVALS #25**

COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

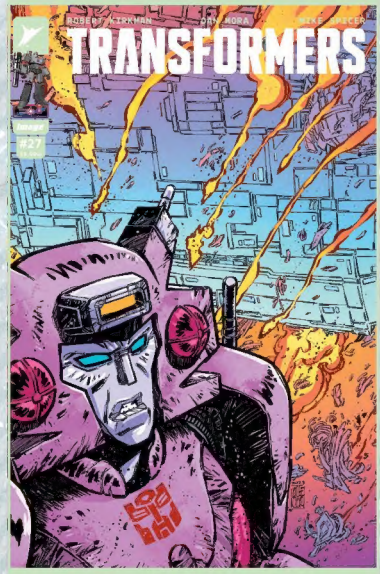
COVER A

DAVID NAKAYAMA

COVER B

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER

COVER C



JORGE CORONA & MIKE SPICER

COVER D

LORENZO DE FELICI

COVER E

DAN MORA & ANDRES JUAREZ

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